



AB 1019: Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship

BILL

Assembly Bill 1019 will amend the California Labor Code to expand membership of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards' Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA) to include the Directors of the Department of Rehabilitation and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. This bill will also mandate the creation of a subcommittee to address apprenticeships for people with disabilities. These changes to the IACA will provide the perspective of people with disabilities on the IACA and help create apprenticeship opportunities for Californians with disabilities.

PROBLEM

California has seen minimal growth in the employment rate for persons with disabilities despite continued economic growth since the recession. People with disabilities are much more likely to be unemployed or under-employed, than people without disabilities. The American Community Survey reports that in 2017,¹ the employment rate of working-age people (ages 21 to 64) with disabilities in California was 36.8 percent compared to 77.3 percent of working-aged people without disabilities. A gap of 40.5 percent. The Department of Developmental Services reports that 14.5 percent of people with developmental disabilities who are receiving services through the regional center are working.²

Also in 2017, 23.1 percent of working age people with disabilities are living in poverty in California. Furthermore, in CA in 2017, the percentage of working-age people with disabilities who were not working but actively looking for work was 8.0 percent compared to 18.0 percent of working age people without disabilities. A gap of 10 percent.

Without adequate opportunities and supports to pursue career paths in the community making minimum wage or above, such as non-traditional apprenticeships, Californians with disabilities will continue to live in poverty, and experience barriers to finding and retaining employment.

SOLUTION

IACA meets quarterly to provide advice and guidance to state apprenticeship executives on pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, standards, certification, on-the-job training, and retaining programs in non-traditional apprenticeship industries. Non-traditional apprenticeship industries are industries outside building, construction, and firefighter trades.

Ensuring that there is representation on the IACA from the state agencies that work with and provide services to people with disabilities in employment will enhance opportunities to advocate for the creation or tailoring of apprenticeship programs for persons with disabilities. These new opportunities will provide additional and much needed avenues for people with disabilities to obtain careers that are integrated in the community, and pay competitive wages.

SPONSOR/SUPPORT/OPPOSE

State Council on Developmental Disabilities
(Sponsor)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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¹ Erickson, W., Lee, C., & von Schrader, S. (2019). 2017 Disability Status Report: California. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability (YTI).

² https://www.dds.ca.gov/RCOversight/Employment_CA.cfm